

MINUTES

100th Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

February 4, 2009
Hilton Hotel
Vancouver, Washington

1. Attendees:

Stephen Phillips, Chair, PSMFC	Allen Pleus, WDFW
Scott Lund, BOR	Pam Meacham, WDFW
Marla Harrison, Port of Portland	Eileen Ryce, MDFWP (phone)
Randy Henry, OMB	Blaine Parker, CRITFC
Bill Zook, PSMFC	Mark Sytsma, PSU
Paul Heimowitz, USFWS	Sam Chan, OSU
Joan Cabreza, PSMFC	David Britton, USFWS (phone)
Eric Anderson, WDFW	Tim Counihan, USGS
Rebecca Weiss, USCOE	Steve Wells, PSU
Scott Aikin, BIA	Robyn Draheim, PSU
Rian Hooff, ORDEQ	Carol Chandler, USFS
Glenn Dolphin, OMB	Rick Boatner, ODFW
Justin Bush, Skamania County	Kevin Christensen, USDA
Lisa DeBruyckere, OISC	Amy Ferriter, IDA
Mark Hitchcox, USDA	Jim Irish, BPA
Amy Puls, USGS	Scott Smith, USGS
Scott Bollens, WSU	Steve Wells, PSU
Jeff Uebel, USFS	Kevin Aitkin, USFWS
Randy Henry, OMB	

2. Comments and Approval of October 2008 Minutes

Stephen Phillips welcomed the group. There were no additional comments on the minutes - they have been posted on the 100th Meridian web site:

<http://www.100thmeridian.org/ColumbiaRT.asp>

Early Detection of Dreissena Mussels in the West Workshop, and 100th Meridian initiative Meeting, Denver (January)

Paul H. and David B. reported on the *Early Detection of Dreissena Mussels in the West* which was held 21-22 January in Denver. The ultimate goal for workshop participants is to provide vetted recommendations to the 100th Meridian Initiative regarding the early detection and monitoring of the dreissenid invasion of western waters. The meeting discussed the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing water sample techniques that analyze for veliger

larvae (primarily microscopy and PCR), shared sampling and analysis protocols, and ultimately began development of dreissenid detection and monitoring plan for the West. To see a transcript from the meeting, including objectives, attendees etc., go to <http://www.musselmonitoring.com/>.

Following the detection meeting, a national-level 100th Meridian Initiative meeting (22-23 January) was held. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a comprehensive regional monitoring plan for 2009 using the information developed from the early detection meeting the day before. A rough draft of the monitoring plan will be available by mid March, and a final plan is expected by April 1.

The 100th Meridian meeting also discussed the further development of a broad scale dreissenid mussel monitoring database.

Paul and Allen talked about the levels of detection – including criteria such as “detected”, “suspected”, and “exposed.” Further information from the Denver meetings will be sent out on this.

Scott S. asked about using the existing database at USGS (Gainesville, Pam Fuller) for holding western dreissenid monitoring data.

David B. said that they had not discussed this possibility recently but would follow-up.

Several people commented that funding to staff a database, wherever it is located, will be a continuing challenge.

Allen pointed out that finding veligers in large water bodies is sometimes like finding a needle in a haystack, and we don't have the current monitoring capacity to sample the large volumes of water necessary to predict with confidence whether a water body is infested or not. Therefore need to use all monitoring tools available to us, whether it is substrates, docks, concrete walls, etc.

Paul mentioned that he thought dive monitoring will be included in the monitoring strategy. Also, a flow cytometry (flow cam) was another tool with possibilities. A private company in Idaho is buying a flowCAM for possible use in zebra monitoring.

Scott mentioned that “dirty water” research for dreissenid monitoring on PCR is being undertaken by USGS researchers.

Notification Database

David Britton discussed the Aquatic Invasive Species Notification Database. Unconfirmed reports of quagga/zebra mussel detections and contaminated watercraft "on-the-move" identified the need for a notification database within the 100th Meridian

Initiative website. Rather than individuals trying to keep contact lists up-to-date for unique efforts like the Columbia Basin rapid response plan, this database would serve as a centralized directory, with each jurisdiction responsible for including and updating their contact information. This prototype database is now on-line. David is still working to add the search function, and the display of listed contacts still does not yet show email addresses or associated state coverage. Please think about any other enhancements to the data entry or data access facets of this system that would make it more useful in quickly routing information on preliminary ANS detections and contaminated boat reports to first-tier ANS response contacts in the West. David will be sending out new passwords to access the database in the near future, and requesting additional names to be added to the list contacts for the list. David hopes to have the database “live” by April.

CRB monitoring Activities

Stephen said one of the tasks of the Denver meeting was to survey western resources agencies as to their projected dreissenid monitoring in 2009. Stephen said he would send out a survey to the CRB Team in the coming month

Steve W. provided an overview of PSU’s monitoring activities, including the calcium based risk assessment study being conducted with BPA funding with USGS (Tim Counihan

Pam/Allen said that WDFW took 163 samples for veliger analysis in 2008.

Eileen reported that MT turns around their veliger samples in 4 weeks.

Allen mentioned the threat of ballast water from the CA Bay/ Delta as a possible avenue for introduction of dreissenids to the CRB. Allen discussed the recent Ikan Acapulco incident in the Columbia River, where a vessel from the Bay/Delta nearly dumped untreated/exchanged ballast water into the Columbia River at Vancouver.

Western Zebra Mussel Action Plan (s)

Paul H. discussed the Western Zebra Mussel Action Plan. The ANS Task Force asked the WRP to take the lead on developing the plan. The plan will include State and regional activities, what has worked or is working to prevent or control the spread, what states have ANS plans or are very active in ANS prevention, costs, priority needs, etc. A draft of the plan will be presented to the ANSTF meeting in Bozeman (May 19-21, 2009). A steering committee has been identified for writing the plan and a committee meeting is in the works for April. From the CRB, Stephen, Eileen and Paul are on the steering committee. The Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters office is providing additional funds to assist with development of the plan, particularly with regard to ensuring broad input and review by the full WRP membership.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is also developing a dreissenid plan. This effort is being led by Larry Riley (AZFG). The WRP and WAFWA have recognized the importance of coordinating, and eventually integrating, these two planning efforts.

CRB Dreissenid Rapid Response Plan Update

Stephen and Paul discussed the Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species. A second interagency mock response exercise was held in October, 2008. It was more focused than the first exercise, and attendees considered it to be very successful. A report on the October exercise is now available at

[http://100thmeridian.org/ActionTeams/Columbia/CRB_Dreissenid_Exercise_2008report.pdf].

A copy of the 5 year exercise strategy for the CRB Response Plan can be found at the end of this document.

The next rapid response exercise is scheduled for April 29/30 in Boise (and Lucky Peak Reservoir). This will include:

- Training and evaluation of SCUBA diver detection/delineation survey protocols
- Applying Incident Command System structure to managing dive operations
- Training and evaluation of interagency decision-making regarding treatment of an infested water body in Idaho
- Media coverage to build awareness of invasive species and response planning efforts

Robyn noted that an after exercise report from Idaho is important for use for the current Oregon effort to develop state rapid response capability.

WIT/Watercraft Inspection Survey

Bill Zook gave a presentation on the Watercraft Inspection Training program. One of the added benefits of the program was that WIT graduates were now undertaking their own trainings.

Bill gave an update on the watercraft inspection survey. There was a good response (> 80%) to the Western Regional Panel watercraft inspection survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine what western agencies and organizations are currently doing about this issue so that we can begin to develop some consistency and predictability in the system, identify training and research needs and ensure that everyone is maximizing the effectiveness of their available resources. Bill will be summarizing the information from the survey in the coming month.

Bill discussed the need for a decontamination effectiveness study, and the development of uniform decontamination standards. Also, Bill is looking into leading further education directed at commercial boat haulers (to be undertaken with 100th Meridian Initiative funding).

Marla mentioned the need for dreissenid training at Columbia River Ports. Bill will follow up on this with Marla.

Education and Outreach

The meeting then turned its attention to future ANS outreach activities and priorities for the coming year.

Jeff spoke about the group Wildlife Forever that is working with the U.S. Forest Service and other partners, to put together a 27 minute DVD on what hunters, anglers and anyone in the outdoors can do to help stop invasive species. Further information on the video can be found at

<http://www.wildlifeforever.org/resources/NEW%20PAGES/INVASIVESPECIES.aspx>

Glen discussed the ANS survey that OMS did last December. Out of 300 hundred responses, 14 percent mentioned knowledge of zebra mussels, but 29 percent said that they would take no steps to clean their boat. Later in the survey, responses showed that 70 percent would always clean their boat. Glen mentioned that OMB had funds for doing an audio press release. Stephen said that maybe they could use the Clark and Lewis zebra mussel spot from several years ago. Glen will follow-up with Stephen.

Stephen said that a survey at the PSMFC ANS booth at the Portland and Boise sport shows would be conducted. This effort should help with booth design and effectiveness.

Member Updates

Trevor gave a presentation on his nutria research. Nutria have the capability to change wetland into mudflats and are well distributed in Oregon and Washington. Nutria burrows are a problem for farmers and ranchers and they also destabilize river banks. A problem has been convincing people not to feed them as they are sometimes seen as wild pets. Trevor showed the results of his nutria mapping work.

Eric gave a presentation on ANS enforcement activities on trailered watercraft in Washington State in 2008. Operations were conducted in the summer. Written warnings were issued (for attached weeds). Hundreds of boats were stopped and inspected.

Amy discussed the 4 state Idaho led dreissenid prevention proposal that will be submitted to the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council. During lunch, a meeting was held with representatives from Oregon, Washington and Idaho to discuss the details of this proposal. Amy will continue working with the three other states (ID, WA, OR and MT) on proposal

development in the coming month. Stephen added that the NWPPCC was going to vote on the Draft Amended Fish and Wildlife Program (<http://www.nwcouncil.org/Default.htm>) in the coming week. The amendment strengthens funding opportunities for ANS projects [note: the package was adopted by the council]

Carol mentioned that the USFS has foreign language capability for potential foreign language ANS educational materials.

Sam discussed the biological supply house – ANS education outreach effort that he is leading.

Paul discussed the upcoming CRB ANS poster and brochure “Intruders Among Us”. Paul will send out an email with an electronic file of the poster and brochure requesting orders for desired quantities of each publication.

Paul also said the Columbia River marina display project (contractor BRI) is moving along and will still feature a blurb on ANS. He will send out the draft blurb for comment in the coming month.

Kevin A. said that Cabela’s in Lacey will have an education day at their store and USFWS will have an ANS booth there in March.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Next Meeting Date:

- The next meeting of the CRB Team will be held Wednesday **June 3, 2009**, in the Portland metro area.

***Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan:
Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species***
Exercise Strategy: 2008-2013

The Columbia Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative will hold a series of table-top and/or field-based exercises over the next 5 years (or until an actual introduction occurs) in order to increase preparedness for implementing the *Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Zebra Mussels and Other Dreissenid Species*. Although no single event will meet all of the below objectives, exercises will be organized so that all objectives are met at least once by 2013. The Columbia Basin Team will review the objectives periodically and provide input to the Multi-Agency Coordination Group regarding which objectives should be covered by any given exercise. At least one exercise will occur each year, and more frequently as resources allow. An ad hoc work group will be assembled to design and organize each exercise. Each ad hoc work group will be comprised of relevant Columbia Basin Team members and external partners associated with the specific focus/location of the exercise.

Exercise Objectives

1. Enhance capacity to make and implement vessel traffic management decisions
 - closing recreational boat ramps/access/movement
 - commercial traffic
 - locks/navigation management
 - ports
 - regional support for enforcement, etc.
2. Enhance capacity to make and implement eradication decisions
 - go/no go
 - how: weigh short-term/long-term risk management
 - shared resources for monitoring, treatment, permitting, etc.
3. Prompt states/jurisdictions to pre-plan response prior to exercise
4. MAC coordination and relationship-building (meet at least once annually)
5. Generate detailed summary/incident action plan (s) that can be used for “most likely scenarios” section in plan
6. Test on-the-ground coordination for a scenario involving each of the following focus areas:
 - Idaho high-risk waterbody
 - Oregon high-risk waterbody
 - Washington high-risk waterbody`

- Lake Chelan/Lake Roosevelt NRAs
- Local partnership priorities (e.g., Lake Pend Oreille, Henry's Lake)

7. Field test rapid deployment operations for:

- diver-based monitoring
- water sample collection
- substrate/hard surface survey
- communications

8. Enhance capacity for JIC operation

9. Test notification effectiveness

Schedule:

<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Focus</u>
October 2008 [Completed]	Portland/Vancouver	Objectives 1, 4 (MAC working relationship, vessel pathway management) - Port of PDX/Columbia River barge
Spring 2009	Idaho	Objectives 2-7 (Eradication Decision; Divers; Monitoring; Idaho partnerships)
Fall 2009	Washington	Same as Spring 2009
2010	Montana	Same as Spring 2009
2011	Oregon	Same as Spring 2009
2012	TBD	TBD
2013	TBD	Large-scale cumulative exercise